

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :

Kouki FUKUI : Attn: APPLICATION BRANCH

Serial No. NEW : Docket No. 2001_0681A

Filed June 1, 2001 :

NONCOMBUSTIBLE INSULATING DUCT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TO REDUCE PTO FILING FEE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

In the Claims:

Kindly amend claim 8 as follows.

8. (Amended) A noncombustible insulating duct according to Claim 1, wherein the insulating material is noncombustible insulating fiber, such as glass wool and rock wool.

Kindly add new claims 9-14 as follows.

9. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to Claim 2, wherein the insulating material is noncombustible insulating fiber, such as glass wool and rock wool.

10. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to Claim 3, wherein the insulating material is noncombustible insulating fiber, such as glass wool and rock wool.

11. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to Claim 4, wherein the insulating material is noncombustible insulating fiber, such as glass wool and rock wool.

12. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to Claim 5, wherein the insulating material is noncombustible insulating fiber, such as glass wool and rock wool.

13. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to Claim 6, wherein the insulating material is noncombustible insulating fiber, such as glass wool and rock wool.

14. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to Claim 7, wherein the insulating material is noncombustible insulating fiber, such as glass wool and rock wool.

REMARKS

The above claim amendments are presented in order to remove multiple claim dependencies, so as to reduce the required filing fee.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with Markings to
Show Changes Made

5. A noncombustible insulating duct comprising a belt-like body which is formed of an insulating material, such as glass wool, and a noncombustible cloth or some other noncombustible sheet type material with which the insulating material is wrapped, and which is spirally wound, a preceding end portion of the belt-like body and a following end portion thereof being bonded together with a bonding agent in such a manner that the noncombustibility of a final product is not lost, and thereby connected together firmly by a noncombustible joint member.
6. A noncombustible insulating duct according to Claim 5, wherein the bonding agent is a noncombustible bonding agent.
7. A noncombustible insulating duct according to Claim 5, wherein a flange projecting from the preceding end portion of the belt-like body and that projecting from the following end portion thereof are wound in folded-back portions at edge sections of a noncombustible joint member and caulked firmly, whereby the end portions of the belt-like body are connected to each other.
8. A noncombustible insulating duct according to any one of Claims 1-7, wherein the insulating material is noncombustible insulating fiber, such as glass wool and rock wool.

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